

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims currently pending in the present Application.

Allowed Claims

Claims 2, 4, and 10-12 are allowed.

Claim Amendments

With this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 13, 14, and 15 in order more fully to cover various aspects of Applicants' invention as disclosed in the specification.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Ahne (U.S. Patent 6,406,110). Claims 7, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ahne. Claims 3 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ahne, in view of Yokoi (U.S. Patent 5,982,400). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants submit that neither Ahne nor Yokoi teaches or suggests a carry command value, wherein the larger the carry command value is, the more a carry roller rotates (see claim 1; see also claims 13, 14, and 15).

Regarding the limitation of a "carry command value," the Examiner has referred to a number of elements of the Ahne reference. However, there is no value taught or suggested by Ahne, whereby the larger the value, the more a carry roller is rotated. Likewise, Yokoi fails to make up for this deficiency in Ahne.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 13, 14, and 15 are patentable over the cited references and that claims 3 and 5-9 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1, 3, 5-9, 13, 14, and 15 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Moskowitz
Registration No. 55,470

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 5, 2006